



ABILENE WRITERS GUILD
MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER
KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH
ABILENE WRITERS GUILD.ORG
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MARCH MADNESS

It's March, and we are still marching to the beat of the same old drum. The City of Abilene has not released a date for reopening Rose Park Senior Center for meetings so we cannot project when it will be possible for AWG to meet regularly again. We can, however, say with assurance that the AWG Writing Workshop is on schedule for Saturday, March 20, at First Baptist Church from 8:30 to noon. It promises to be an informative hands-on session, and I sincerely hope that you have made plans to attend.

Although it has been a year since we have come together as a group of writers, most of us have continued our solitary writing projects, and some have worked with others in editing or critiquing. A strong vocabulary is an essential tool for writers. We are always in search of the precise word to vividly portray a scene or to convey a thought or emotion. Knowing my penchant for unusual words and phrases, a friend sent me a list of definitions for some of the weirdest words I have ever seen. Did you know these things had names?

That space between your eyebrows has a name; it is a **glabella**.

The way it smells after the rain is not just fresh and clean. It is called **petrichor**.

That embarrassing rumbling of your stomach is actually called a **wamble**.

When you close your eyes and press your hands on them, the sheen or light that you see is called **phosphenes**.

You know yesterday, today, and tomorrow, but did you know that the day after tomorrow is called **overmorrow**?

Your tiny toe or finger is your pinkie, but it is also called **minimus**.

Illegible handwriting is not just a scrawl, it is called **griffonage**.

When you place a dot over an *i* or a *j*, you are making a **tittle**.

The metallic device used to measure your feet at the shoe store is called a **Bannock device**.

That space between your nostrils is called **columella nasi**.

When you combine an exclamation mark with a question mark (!?), it's called an **interrobang**.

The "na na na" and "la la la," syllables which don't really have any meaning in the lyrics of a song are not just forgotten words. They are called **vocables**.

If you are enjoying the bright reflection of the moonlight on a lake some evening, you are watching **moonglade**.

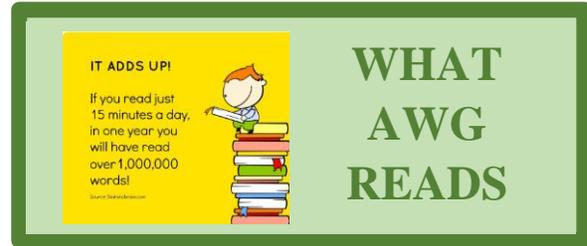
When your signature is followed by a flourish, you are ending with a **paraph**.

Did you know that the hashtag or pound symbol is called an **octothorpe**?

I was happy to learn that the condition of finding it difficult to get out of the bed in the morning does not necessarily mean I'm lazy. It is called **dysania**.

Okay, I admit it. I am guilty of **sesquipedalianism** this month. Chalk it up to March Madness, and whether you use big words or little ones, write on.

Mary Berry
AWG President



Marguerite Gray: BRAG: The final book in my Revolutionary Faith Series, *Wait for Me*, released on February 9.

Suanna Davis: BRAG: Wrote a first draft of a story. Doing PT for my leg, which I had surgery on in October. SAG: I haven't submitted anything.

Chuck Webber: BRAG: MY daughter showed me how to use ZOOM on my cell phone without needing to get a camera for my desk computer.

Carolyn Dycus: BRAG: Husband A.M. and I received our 2nd COVID-19 vaccines over two weeks ago! Therefore, I am excited to attend our 2021 AWG Workshop, March 20, 8:30 a.m.. Can't wait to see your faces!

Gail McMillan: BRAG – Chosen for Tejas Story Slam, a 5 minute Personal Story on the theme “Just Enough” (for a story) for the Texas Storytelling Festival 2021. A competition. (Tight writing – right?)

Kay Talley: Writing, writing, writing so many things. Concentrating on stories of my life to give to my children and grandchildren.

Marguerite Gray: I'm reading *The Vanishing at Loxby Manor* by Abigail Wilson and *Heart Pressed* by Melissa Wardwell.

Carolyn Dycus: Reading *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain* by George Saunders. For those who would enjoy sitting in a top-notch university writing class, this author/professor gives the reader an illuminating course on short stories, using stories by five Russian icons to illustrate how fiction works and its relevance in our modern times. It's a genius work which is why I had to check it out a second time, maybe a third?

Sharon Ellison: reading *Bonhoeffer*, by Eric Metaxas, which is a biography of Deitrick Bonhoeffer. It's a big thick book with small print. It's full of such interesting information about his life. I can only manage one chapter at a time because I find myself thinking about each one. And just for fun, I am reading Debby Macomber's *Blossom Street Brides*.

Gail McMillan: Reading – *Healing Shine* by Michael Johnson. The story of one man and one horse and the seven-year spiritual journey of Healing Shine.



Our Officers

President: Mary Berry (2022)
Executive VP: David Dodge (2021)
Program VP: Sharon Ellison (2022)
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus (2021)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan (2021)
Board Member: Linda Gordon (2021)
Board Member: Darla McCleod (2021)
Board Member: Mary Ann Smith (2022)
Board Member: Kay Talley (2022)
Alt. Board Member: Chuck Weber (2022)
Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon



Our Life Members

*Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters
Alice Greenwood, David Dodge*

Members gain the status by gift from the membership as a whole, by paying a one-time fee of \$600, by receiving the honor as a gift from another, or by reaching the age of 90 while a member of AWG



Members Only Contests

*March Winners will be announced
at WORKSHOP*

April - Poetry

Feeling a little romantic?

Perhaps a little humorous?

*Or maybe just reflecting on the
past.*

*Write it all down in your own
special style of poetry and send
it in to be judged.*

Annual Contest

WINNERS

The time we've all been waiting for has finally arrived. Winners will be announced and prizes given at the annual workshop on Saturday March 20.

Come let us celebrate with

YOU

Abilene Writers Guild Annual Workshop

This project is supported by a grant from the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council, HeARTS for the ARTS and the City of Abilene.

The place is secured, the speaker is coming and we hope to see YOU!

When: Saturday, March 20, 2021, 8:30 am to noon.

Where: Dining room/parlor of First Baptist Church, N. 2nd and Hickory Streets, Abilene.

Coffee and light refreshments will be available. Enter at the southeast corner of the building. There is ample parking near the building as well as just south across the street.

Cost: \$15

Register: 1) (325) 665-5195. Leave your name & phone number. You may pay at the door on March 20, but please let us know you are coming!

2) ***OR,*** send your name and check for \$15.00 to: AWG, 862 Grand Ave, Abilene, TX 79605.

3) ***Can't decide?*** If March 20 arrives and you want to come...just show up!!

Awards from AWG's 2020 Annual Writing Contest will be also be presented.



The Program and Speaker!

If you have ever been curious about copywriting, what it is and how to do it, join us! If you don't think copywriting is your "thing," you will still gain valuable and useful information about writing. This is a win-win program!

Jen McGahan resides in central Texas. She is a copywriter and content writer who helps people say what they mean without the fluff in order to get the attention and/or sales they want.

She is the author of the 5-star Amazon ebook Find Your Ideal Clients: *The Secret to Irresistible Free Opt-in Offers* and the course *Words That Work*. She helps people make a huge impact and increase online visibility.

As the owner of the digital marketing agency, My Team Connects, Jen has helped businesses make millions of dollars in sales through strategic web content and direct response copywriting that attracts eyeballs, gets clicks and moves customers through sales funnels.

A disciple of copywriting greats, Jen has personally mentored with some of the best in business to build her writing chops. Besides being obsessed with copywriting and persuasion techniques, she loves hiking, alternative health modalities, books, and the Texas Hill Country. Her background includes engineering sales at a semiconductor equipment company in Silicon Valley, freelance magazine article writing, and publishing poetry. She is mother to three funny kids and is a licensed massage therapist!

Members Only Monthly Contest – 2021

Exclusive: For current members of AWG only. All entries eligible for Annual Contest. **No fees!**

Judging: Judges are professionals who may or may not choose to critique entries. Choice of winners is final. If there are fewer than four entries per category in double category months, categories will be combined. Six entries per month are required for judging.

Prizes: \$20 first prize and \$15 second prize. You are encouraged to attend the meetings to pick up your check. Otherwise they will be mailed to the physical address provided.

Pay careful attention to all guidelines

Deadline: Submissions received any time after the 12th of the previous month, but due by the 12th of the contest month.

Enter by Email Only: Send documents as attachments and in Word format only. Subject Line should state: **AWG Contest and “Month”** (e.g. January). Entries will be returned to the email on coversheet. Warning: some devices may not transmit document correctly, thus disqualifying entry. AWG will respond within five days. It is entrant’s responsibility to verify and resend.

Send to: awg.entry@yahoo.com

Mix & Match: Submit up to 3 entries per month. Enter poetry, prose, or both. Blended themes are acceptable. Must be original work unpublished at deadline (includes Internet posts).

** You may send up to 3 entries and accompanying cover sheets in the same email, but all cover sheets and entries must be **separate attachments.****

Cover Sheet Format: **Top left:** author’s name, physical address (to mail prize check), telephone number, and email. **Top right:** Chosen month of entry, **word** count for Prose and Flash entries or **line** count for poetry. (*Do not count the title when determining line or word counts.*) **Title** of entry should be centered midway down the page.

Entry Format: *Do not include author name on any page.* Minimum one-inch margins; prose double spaced; poetry single or double spaced. **First page:** center title at top, double space then start text. Number subsequent pages at the top center or top right.

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	Beginnings, Hope, Surprises	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Love, Friendship, Memories	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: <i>play, pattern, peril, point, pride</i>	Flash entry: Fiction or Poetry 100 max using 5 prompt words
APRIL	National Poetry Month NO THEME	Rhymed or Unrhymed Poetry 50 lines or less
MAY	National Short Story Month NO THEME	Fiction – 1,000 words or less
JUNE	AWG Non-Fiction Month NO THEME	Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
JULY	Home, Travel	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: <i>space, soften, sting, sparkle, sphere</i>	Flash entry: Fiction or Poetry 100 max using 5 prompt words

Flash Fiction/Poetry use 5 mandatory prompt words, or close form and meaning, like: Oil = oiled, oils, oiling, oiler, oily **not spoil or foil**; boat = lifeboat; speak = unspeakable, **not spoken**; place = placement; defect = defection or defective.